

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
  - an image carrier that carries an image;
  - 5 a transfer device that transfers the image carried by said image carrier onto a sheet;
  - a feeding device that feeds the sheet;
  - a conveying device that conveys the sheet fed by said feeding device to said transfer device; and
- 10 a controller that controls said conveying device to cause the sheet to be temporarily stopped at a first location and a second location between said feeding device and said transfer device;
  - wherein said controller is operable when
- 15 determining that, if the sheet is caused to be temporarily stopped at the first location, the sheet cannot be conveyed to said transfer device by said conveying device in time for timing in which the image carried by said image carrier reaches said transfer device, for providing control to inhibit the sheet from being temporarily stopped at the first location.

2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second location is a registration location, and the first location is a pre-registration location upstream of the second location.

25 3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a sheet sensor disposed in a vicinity of

the first location, and wherein said controller determines whether the sheet can be conveyed to said transfer device by said conveying device in time for the timing in which the image carried by said image carrier reaches said transfer device even if the sheet is caused to be temporarily stopped at the first location, based on timing in which said sheet sensor detects a leading end of the sheet.

4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 10 1, wherein said controller is operable when determining that the sheet cannot be conveyed to said transfer device by said conveying device in time for the timing in which the image carried by said image carrier reaches said transfer device even if the sheet is conveyed without being temporarily stopped at the first location, for providing control to stop conveyance of the sheet by said conveying device or issue abnormality warning.

5. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
20 a photosensitive member;  
an image forming device that forms an image on said photosensitive member;  
an image carrier that carries an image;  
a first transfer device that transfers the image  
25 formed on said photosensitive member onto said image carrier;  
a second transfer device that transfers the image

transferred onto said image carrier onto a sheet;  
a feeding device that feeds the sheet;  
a conveying device that conveys the sheet fed by  
said feeding device to said second transfer device; and  
5 a controller that controls said conveying device  
to cause the sheet to be temporarily stopped at a first  
location and a second location between said feeding  
device and said second transfer device;

wherein said controller is operable when  
10 determining that, if the sheet is caused to be  
temporarily stopped at the first location, the sheet  
cannot be conveyed to said second transfer device by  
said conveying device in time for timing in which the  
image carried by said image carrier reaches said second  
15 transfer device, for providing control to inhibit the  
sheet from being temporarily stopped at the first  
location.

6. An image forming apparatus according to claim  
5, wherein the second location is a registration  
20 location, and the first location is a pre-registration  
location upstream of the second location.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim  
5, comprising a sheet sensor disposed in a vicinity of  
the first location, and wherein said controller  
25 determines whether the sheet can be conveyed to said  
second transfer device by said conveying device in time  
for the timing in which the image carried by said image

carrier reaches said second transfer device even if the sheet is caused to be temporarily stopped at the first location, based on timing in which said sheet sensor detects a leading end of the sheet.

5       8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said controller is operable when determining that the sheet cannot be conveyed to said second transfer device by said conveying device in time for the timing in which the image carried by said image  
10 carrier reaches said second transfer device even if the sheet is conveyed without being temporarily stopped at the first location, for providing control to stop conveyance of the sheet by said conveying device or issue abnormality warning.

15      9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said photosensitive member comprises a photosensitive drum, and said image carrier comprises an intermediate transfer belt.

10. An image forming apparatus according to claim  
20 5, wherein said photosensitive member comprises a plurality of photosensitive members.